

Community Forestry Council NEWS

NEW LEADERSHIP ON FORESTRY COUNCIL

DelDOT's Chip Rosan was elected the 2008 Chair of the Community Forestry Council at its January 22nd meeting. Delaware Center for Horticulture's Patrice Sheehan was elected Vice-Chair for 2008. Congratulations to both!

DCH DIRECTOR RECEIVES AWARD

Delaware Center for Horticulture's Executive Director, Pam Sapko, received national recognition in November from the Wash. D.C.-based Alliance for Community Trees, a nonprofit urban forestry organization. Pam received the group's "NeighborWoods Academy Scholarship" donated by Home Depot Foundation, which helps nonprofits that build better communities through urban forestry.

FOX IS NEW FORESTER IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Marcia Fox is now the new forester for New Castle County. She joined the Delaware Forest Service from DNREC's Coastal Program. Welcome Marcia!

"WHAT TREE AM I?" Answer from Page 1

"Tree of heaven" is the central metaphor in the novel "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." Now considered an invasive species, it was introduced into the U.S. in 1784. *Ailanthus altissima* quickly colonizes disturbed areas, crowds out other species, and is hard to eradicate once established.

Delaware Holds Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest



Last year's contest winners met the Governor at Arbor Day festivities.

The Delaware Forest Service invites students in Grades K-5 to participate in its 2008 Arbor Day Poster Contest. Now in its 15th year, the poster contest is a fun and easy way to celebrate Arbor Day with your school. **The entry deadline is March 7th.**

Application forms with all the contest rules and regulations, as well as information on the Delaware Forest Service's Annual Free Seedling Program can be found at: www.delawareforest.com. **Only those** schools who participate in the poster contest will be eligible for the annual free seedling program.

Poster entries will be judged on the following criteria: Use of Theme, Originality, Neatness, and Artistic Expression.

The Delaware Forest Service will select a winner from each county in the following three categories: Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, and Grades 3-4. From these county winners, the Delaware Forest Service will choose one overall state winner. Students can win a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond, a holly tree, and a tree ceremony at their



2008 Theme: Trees Are Terrific ... Inside and Out!

school. Also, all the winning posters will be displayed on the state forestry website.

The winning 5th grade poster will go on to represent Delaware in the National Arbor Day Poster Contest, in which the winner gets a \$1,000 savings bond and an all expense-paid trip to the National Award Weekend in Nebraska!

The poster contest winners, their parents, and teachers will be honored guests at the State Arbor Day Ceremony on April 25th. This year's ceremony will be held at Blackbird State Forest's education center and will include the opening of the new Arboretum.

All poster contest entries and requests for free seedlings must be sent to the State Coordinator by March 7, 2008. No contest entries or seedling requests will be accepted after that date.



Evergreen

Delaware Community Forestry Council News

<http://dda.delaware.gov/forestry>



Volume 14, Issue 2

What is i-Tree?



<http://www.itreetools.org/>

What is i-Tree?

i-Tree is state-of-the-art software that integrates three analysis tools:

- 1) Urban Forest Effects Model (UFORE)
- 2) Mobile Community Tree Inventory (MCTI)
- 3) Street Tree Resource Analysis Tool for Urban forest Managers (STRATUM).

Both UFORE and STRATUM facilitate urban forest analysis at the ecosystem and street tree levels, respectively, while MCTI provides a platform for street tree inventory or record management.

What will i-Tree do?

i-TREE is designed for urban forest analyses. It facilitates street tree inventory, manages urban forest structure, and conducts function and value analyses for both on- and off-street resources. It creates charts and tables that help managers to legitimize funding, generate enthusiasm and investment, and promote good decision-making and sound tree management.

Who should use i-Tree?

i-TREE is for community foresters, non-profit tree groups, arborists, planners, and anyone with a vested interest in their community's urban forest. It's affordable, easy-to-use and has tools for those who might not otherwise have the money or means to inventory and analyze their community trees.



URBAN FORESTRY INITIATIVE

The practice of community forestry, long-championed by natural resource professionals, has become a prominent issue both regionally and nationally. The fact that well-managed trees provide so many benefits was the powerful message that was carried to 30 communities at the recent meeting of the League of Local Governments in Dover. Urban Forestry Director Henry Poole and Delaware Center for Horticulture's Andrea Mosher were there to discuss the State Urban Forestry Initiative.

As Mosher pointed out to the attendees, some benefits of trees are obvious: cool shade on a hot day or the colorful contribution to a city street. Other benefits aren't as easily seen. Benefits like "carbon sequestration" or "stormwater interception" don't sound very glamorous, but they are nonetheless important to community health.

The state's Urban Forestry Initiative is a joint effort of the Community Forestry Council, Delaware Forest Service, and

the Delaware Center for Horticulture. It is an effort to quantify and maximize the many benefits of a vibrant community tree program. To that end, attendees learned about the many services that are available to help them assess local forest resources.

One such tool is i-Tree (see story at left), software co-designed by Davey Tree and the U.S. Forest Service. Some municipalities are already using it to create reports that provide decision makers with data needed to better manage urban forests.

Creating management plans to increase and maintain tree canopy should be a common goal for many towns. Indeed, as a central theme of the statewide initiative, it's likely that future grant opportunities will be tilted toward those communities with urban forestry plans that include tree canopy goals. To join the new initiative, call the Delaware Forest Service's Urban Forestry Program at (302) 659-6705.

January, 2008

In this issue

Urban Initiative	1
i-Tree: How It Works	1
Proper Pruning	2
"Don't Top Trees"	2
Conference Highlights	3
Forestry Council News	4
Arbor Day Contest	4



CLUES:

It's an invasive tree from Asia that grows up to 70 feet tall.

It's very tolerant of urban conditions, and can be commonly seen along roadsides.

Its name conjures an image of a lofty and "angelic" place.

Its leaves are similar to those found on a black walnut.

Though there've been rumors of its sighting in the Lincoln Tunnel, it's more famous for inhabiting a backyard in Brooklyn.

ANSWER on PAGE 4

Proper Pruning: It Makes Good Cents by Henry Poole

In life sometimes we get what we pay for. That was certainly true of the landowner that only paid a few hundred dollars to have a large tree near his home removed. I'll spare you the gruesome details, but the end result was the tree going through the roof of the house. I am not going to rail against the homeowner for trying to get a good bargain. I myself, often look for the best deal. However, with tree work all bidders are not always created equal.

The aforementioned contractor did not have any credentials other than having the ability of using a chainsaw. (And that may even be debatable!) There are many of these so called tree experts out there that give a good talk

but often times do bad things to the trees that we love so much.

Many times such contractors will top a tree by taking a "little off the top". While this may be fine at the barber, it is not the recommended treatment for keeping healthy trees. In fact this type of pruning can cost you more money in the long run.

Topping trees goes against the natural growth patterns of the tree. Topping involves the incomplete removal of tree branches by leaving branch stubs. There are various degrees of topping, but all are harmful to trees. Vigorous water sprouts arising out of topping cuts produce many weakly-

attached branches that will usually cause a hazardous condition in the future. As these fast growing sprouts increase in size they often begin to fail and fall to the ground. This obviously is not desirable if you park your car beneath the tree.

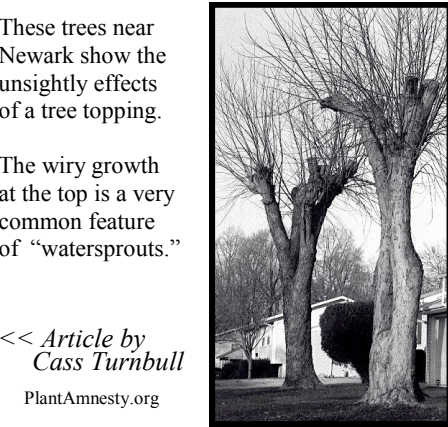
The succulent growth of the water sprouts can attract insects like aphids that feed on the soft tissue. Again, this is not a pleasant situation as aphids exude honeydew that can turn black by bacteria. This is an unsightly nuisance.

As you can see, by going the "cheap" route and having your tree topped by a so-called expert can cost you more money in the long run by requiring future corrective pruning, insect control, and possibly home or car repair.

The International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist credential is the gold standard for workers in the tree care industry. Certified Arborists have the knowledge and experience to perform to the accepted level of care determined by the tree care industry.

If you're going to have tree work done, please do yourself a favor and check the credentials of the prospective contractor. Legitimate tree care professionals can also provide you with a list of references. I have found that the best tree care workers often rely on word of mouth advertising.

For information about certified arborists in your area, call the Delaware Forest Service at (302) 659-6705.



These trees near Newark show the unsightly effects of a tree topping.

The wiry growth at the top is a very common feature of "watersprouts."

<< Article by Cass Turnbull PlantAmnesty.org

"PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY CONFERENCE" HIGHLIGHTS

Delaware Center for Horticulture's Adira Riben reported on the 2007 "Partners in Community Forestry Conference" held in Baltimore, MD on November 14 and 15, 2007.

This landmark conference focused on many issues related to community forestry including tree management, development, and the contribution trees make to the social and physical health of towns and cities. The event culminated in an awards ceremony that honored national and local urban and community forestry leaders.

One highlight was a major study by Dr. Frances Kou linking trees and green space to human health and behavior. The data, presented by Kathleen Wolf, highlighted the overwhelmingly positive influence that trees and landscaping have on society:

The data showed that as the number of outdoor common spaces grew, researchers found increases in individuals' sense of community, attitude towards others in their household, impulse control, self-discipline and concentration. Also, crimes against people and property decreased as the quantity of common outdoor spaces increased. Interestingly, Kou's research showed that the social, psychological and physical breakdown associated with low to no tree cover and greening is most profound for vulnerable populations. For example, while self-reported general health improves with more greening, this effect can actually be seen in the mortality rates of older adults. In short, trees help us to live longer, healthier lives.

Another highlight was the "Growing Home Campaign." A joint project between Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, local nurseries, and others, the Growing Home Campaign offers a \$10 coupon to homeowners that they can use to plant trees anywhere on their property. In its first year, the program encouraged homeowners to buy 2,500 trees! That is a huge step towards the city's goal of 10,000. Plus, the Campaign partner's



James Urban is a nationally-recognized expert who's worked on architecturally and historically significant properties including the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art and the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials. He writes for Landscape Architecture magazine and serves as a visiting lecturer at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

\$10 per tree contribution was a mere 11% of total tree costs associated with this program. So the savings to the county is quite significant and, unlike a street tree planting, these trees are being planted on private property where they will receive better protection and care.

Another idea for urban forest projects came from the Parks and People Foundation and Community Wealth Ventures: using social enterprise groups to produce quality products or services which can be used by the organization (to save money) or sold to the community. By far the most common example of social enterprise in forestry is the tree nursery. These nurseries can grow trees far more suitable to local conditions than trees purchased from outside sources, and provide bare root trees far fresher than a far-off nursery could possibly provide.

Another conference highlight was Jim Urban's ten steps for planting trees. Echoing the "right tree, right place" mantra of the International Society of Arboriculture, Jim went a step beyond. He insisted that creating the right place

"I found it ... encouraging that James Urban was so adamant about not planting trees in places and under conditions (like tiny tree pits) that are not going to allow the tree to grow healthy and to reach a mature size," said Andrea Mosher, Urban Forestry VISTA from the Wilmington-based Delaware Center for Horticulture.

through preservation and improvement of soil, expansion of planting areas and well funded, manageable maintenance plans is essential to establishing a full and vibrant urban forest. After all, a forest where newly planted trees can become large and mature is a worthwhile investment as larger trees offer greater benefits to cities.

Jim Urban: 10 Steps to Tree Planting

- 1) Plant the easy places first. (this may mean planting in lawns as opposed to tree pits).
- 2) Make bigger planting spaces. Try for a size of 20' X 20'.
- 3) Preserve and reuse soil.
- 4) Improve soil and drainage.
- 5) Respect the base of the tree.
- 6) Make space for roots. (a 16" dbh tree needs 1,000 cubic feet of soil volume)
- 7) Select the right place to plant. (3" tree caliper is the best size tree to place in the urban environment)
- 8) Establish reasonable tree and soil budgets.
- 9) Create detailed tree and soil documents (which consider drainage).
- 10) Design for maintenance.

20' X 20' tree pits may sound impossible in a city where a 5' X 5' pit is an uncommon surprise, but with public support, quality planning and adequate funding, we can achieve our vision.